

TABLE TALK

Otago Bridge Club: October 2007

President's Message

Quite a lot has happened since the last full bulletin. We have had our AGM – thank you to all who attended to have your say - but showing I suppose that most people are happy with how things are going. We still have not filled two of the vacant positions on the committee. We are still looking to fill these and will let you know.

Many of our members have just returned from the national Congress in Hamilton, and I must congratulate the members from this club in the Women's, Intermediate and Youth teams who reached the finals – although alas all came second! We have had good success in the top three of many events but no winners this year. However I note that in the Youth Challenge against Australia, Nick Bailey and James Coutts along with Fraser Rew and John Whyte were in the NZ No. 1 team which beat the Australians. The No. 2 team containing Cameron Benson also beat Australia. As some of our well-known youth players gradually reach the magic age of 26 it is good to know that as well as Sam Bailey from the Junior division who was in the I/P team this year, there are several players fulfilling the criteria in the new class who have just finished lessons.

You now know some of the changes the playing committee are planning for next year which will make Wednesday night available to more players without disturbing those who prefer a less competitive night's bridge, and also enable players to play with their friends from other divisions. More details are given elsewhere, but I hope all members will give the new format a go. It is natural to be rather resistant to change, but the committee has consulted widely and there should be something to suit everyone.

Good bridging for the rest of the year.
Lindsay Lawrence

Editorial

This month I have one letter, keeping up the usual amount that I receive. I would like to receive more every so often...

Jared Fudge

Fundraising

Recently we have been asked to support fundraising for club members on four occasions. This I have done willingly each time and have given my best, i.e. two teams at each of the Quiz Nights and a total of five contributions to hampers. I am a beneficiary and so my discretionary income is limited. I have supported club members whose tax liability is far greater than my gross income. I have supported club members to go to bridge tournaments that no way could I afford to attend. I repeat, all this I have done willingly. However, none of the recipients of these funds have even acknowledged my (our) contribution, let alone publicly informed the club members of the total amount of moneys raised and for what particular purpose it is used.

Even the *ODT* publishes details of funds raised from Street Day Appeals and thanks to all those who donated.

I have the feeling that the club members I have supported have taken it for granted (in this case, substitute 'I' for 'we') - the club wants even more money from us to attend functions run by the recipients. Why can't they fund it themselves as a "Thank-you" gesture?

I would also like to point out that not one of these players, who have willingly accepted our contributions towards their expenses, has even bothered to support the club by attending Saturday Night Bridge this year. One fundraising event was even held on a Friday night prior to a Saturday Night Bridge. Surely more thought could have gone into this, especially as this week was a crowded week anyway. i.e. teams on Monday, Divisional night during the

week, Friday bridge, Quiz Night on Friday, Saturday night bridge and the A.G.M. on Sunday.

For those who want our financial support in future I think this should be a situation of 'give and take' and not just 'take and take'.

Wendy Fallon

[No one has ever publicly asked how much money has been raised at any of the fundraisers hosted at the Club, hence no publication of figures. "Thank you's" are made on the night to people who have supported the event, the support is appreciated by all of the fundraisers. The club members whom have been the recipients of the money raised are usually keen players – they play on Restricted Monday, Teams, Divisional nights, as well as Fridays at particular times of the year. These people have full time commitments to jobs or studies, so don't have time to support things like day time Friday or Saturday night Bridge. Some are also qualified Directors, edit the Club newsletter or write the local newspaper's Bridge column, or volunteer in some other way at the Club - hardly "taking and taking". Being a beneficiary, you probably have more time than some people. The choosing of the date in your "crowded" week is not a conspiracy. Not all members attend all of the events that happened to be on in that week anyway – Ed.]

New format for 2008

Thursday Night

The only change at present is that the qualifying rounds of the Club Pairs Championship will be contested by all Thursday night players. As has been the case for the last two years, anyone even from Intermediate or Senior Reserve may try out for this championship, and next year the calendar will have the same events in the same week for Wednesday and Thursday, with a four-night match on Wednesday while the qualifying rounds run on the Thursday.

There will be some seeding so that the top players will be spread between the five sections that play each night in the qualifying rounds,

and there will be some directions given about who plays in what section after the first round (such as those who played EW in the pink section being directed to the green section the next week). After the four qualifying rounds, there will be three sections – the Championship (limited to 30 pairs) the trophy and the Plate.

Some questions answered:

What happens if you cannot play three out of the four qualifying rounds?

Open players will play in the Trophy section and Senior in the Plate. There are some special rules, printed in the programme, for players after Master status who cannot play because of National or International Bridge commitments.

What if I do not want to play in the Championship or Trophy section, even although I qualify?

Just write a note to the Playing Committee either before the qualifying rounds or after you find that you did better than you expected! Obviously if you qualify 31st you will still be expected to play in the Trophy, but there will be some lee-way.

What if I am in Senior Reserve and do not qualify for the Championship Section?

You have two choices. You can play in whichever you qualify, the Trophy or the Plate or you can now play the pairs Championship on Wednesday Nights. However, if you are in a mixed SR and say Senior partnership you will either have to play on Thursday or in the 3-night matches (see below) in the Wednesday Open section. The Wednesday Open section will not have a Pairs Championship this year, although this could change in the future.

What 3-night matches?

All of the Pairs sections on Thursday and in the Wednesday Reserved section will play for nine nights with six to be played and the best six to count. However these will be divided into three 3-night matches, which can be won separately.

Wednesday Night

Everyone can play on Wednesday Night, and we hope that some players from Thursday who do not like to play late that night will take the chance! As already stated, events will run parallel in the programme. This will make it easy to say play the Summer pairs on Thursday night and the Easter pairs on Wednesday night without the events overlapping. You can of course play both nights.

There will however be two rooms. The Wednesday Reserved Section will be limited to those in Senior Reserve, Intermediate and perhaps Junior players, and will be run on handicap. There will be winners in each competition (including the Championship Pairs) off the stick and on handicap.

The Wednesday Open Section will be open to anyone, and will be on handicap for the usual three or four night match, but sometimes there will be Swiss pairs or Swiss Teams which will not be on handicap. You can play with people from any division and there will be Wednesday Open winners for each event. There will not be a Pairs Championship this year.

C Points

The C Points trophies cannot be played for off handicap. There Senior Reserve and Intermediate players will play for different trophies (we are not sure what will happen if an Intermediate player tops the C-Points!) and if anyone chooses to play in the Club Pairs Qualifying or this and the Championship, Trophy or Plate, their C-Points will count towards this trophy. Wednesday Open players will not be able to count their C-Points towards either the SR, Intermediate, Senior or Open Trophies, but to a separate Wednesday Open trophy, but again, this will not be possible on handicap.

You may have more questions. If you write a note to the Playing committee we could put the answers in the next bulletin or in a special page before the Programme comes out which we expect to be early in November.

Results from Hamilton...

Inter-Provincial Teams Championships:

The Womens, Intermediate and Youth teams all made it into the final, against Waikato Bays, Canterbury and Wellington respectively. The teams all finished second.

Team members from Otago Club:

Womens: Adrien Dever – Judy Robertson, Sonia Gill – Anne-Marie Russell

Intermediate: Ian Brockie – Robert Cowan

Youth: Nick Bailey, Sam Bailey, Cameron Benson, Jared Fudge and Annabelle Molloy. Laila West was unable to attend at the 11th hour.

National Congress:

Back to the Future Teams: First place – Nick “Mr 50%” Bailey, Kristen Collins, Jeremy Kennard and Graeme Stout.

New Zealand Pairs Plate: Second place - James Coutts and John Whyte (Hamilton). Winners of the Lionel Wright prize for the highest placing New Zealand Youth pair in the New Zealand Pairs. This is second time James has won this award, the other in 2006 with Jeremy Kennard.

Swiss Pairs: Second place - Nick Bailey and James Coutts

Trans-Tasman Challenge: New Zealand 1 won both matches. Nick Bailey, James Coutts and Fraser Rew (ex-Otago) were members of this team. New Zealand 2, helped by Cameron Benson, also defeated Australia twice.

A note from the Playing Committee...

Because of the errors in Senior Reserve and the weather for Thursday grades, the Pairs Championship will be assessed over six nights out of nine for Senior Reserve and five out of eight for Senior and Open.

Tournament Grading Changes

Effective 1 January 2008 the rating point thresholds for Junior and Intermediate will change, although A Point thresholds will not change:

Junior: 0-30 rating points

Intermediate: 31-100 rating points

Secretary/Manager

The Secretary/Manager is the only full-time employee of the club. He/She oversees the day to day management of the club, obtains club sponsorship, liaises with playing committee re: club retention and recruitment, attends management committee meetings and actions any club requests, liaises with sub-committee chairs and actions any requests, deals with member enquires and complaints, monitors and assists club volunteers, oversees tournament entries and tournament notices. He/She makes any suggestions where they see fit to the Management Committee regarding members, finances and promotion.

Some other tasks which I have taken on are that of Tournament Secretary, Webmaster, Computer Manager, Key Bearer and administrator, dealing all extra necessary boards which at this time include all woman's pairs, senior division and open division boards. I am an ex-officio member of the Management Committee, Finance Committee and Programme Committee. My most recent major task has been obtaining all advertising for the 2008 programme book.

I have also recently taken over the enquiries into fixing our heating issues, I hope to have this underway in the very near future.

If you ever wish to discuss any concerns please feel free to contact me.

Martijn Prent
Secretary/Manager

Dunedin Bridge Club

Some of you will be aware that the Dunedin Bridge Club meets in the Hudson Room. They are a small non-affiliated club playing friendly bridge, meeting on Saturday afternoons, Monday day time (11am and bring your lunch) and playing teams once a month on Sunday afternoons. Some of our members who do not like going out at night might enjoy playing with the Dunedin Club members. Ring the Secretary, Margaret George 467 2292 or the President, Myra Stout 455 2991 to find out more

Raffles and the Otago Bridge Club

If you are thinking of holding a raffle to help someone in the Club, please contact Martijn first and he will help with anything he can, because the rules around them have changed somewhat over the last few years. In response to this, it is prudent to inform all members of the club some of the important rules that we must work by here at the Otago Bridge Club to stay within the law.

Lotteries – e.g. raffles and sweepstakes

These may be run as either class 1 gambling or class 2 gambling. You will need to comply with the lottery game rules. See also the list of prizes which are prohibited (below).

Class 1 and 2 gambling

- ◆ No commission is offered or paid to, or received by a person for conducting the gambling
- ◆ No remuneration is offered or paid to, or received by a person for conducting the gambling, except a caller of housie or an authorised representative of a society
- ◆ The gambling activity must comply with the relevant game rules
- ◆ The gambling does not use a gaming machine

Class 1

- ◆ Prizes or potential turnover* for one session does not exceed \$500
- ◆ If the gambling activity is run by individuals (e.g. office sweepstakes), all the profit (ticket sales less any actual and necessary expenses) must be used for the prizes
- ◆ If the gambling activity is run by a society the proceeds must be applied to authorised purposes
- ◆ Does not need a licence
- ◆ The gambling activity must follow the relevant game rules.

Class 2

- ◆ Prizes for one session do not exceed \$5000. Potential turnover* in one session does not exceed \$25,000
- ◆ Must only be run by a society

- ◆ The proceeds must be applied to authorised purposes (link to gambling proceeds info)
- ◆ Consumer information must be clearly described at the point of sale (e.g. the name of the society, the authorised purposes, number of tickets, the closing date for entries, the prizes and when and how any draw will be made).
- ◆ Does not need a licence
- ◆ The gambling activity must follow the relevant game rules.

martijnprent@hotmail.com or call me on 027 361 2980

Kristen Collins is running Bridge lessons for children aged 10-15. If you know of any children interested (or parents of children interested) please call Kristen on 027 329 4786.

*For a lottery potential turnover is the number of tickets printed multiplied by the cost of a single ticket

Prohibited Prizes

It is illegal to offer the following as prizes:

- ◆ A firearm, explosive (including ammunition), restricted weapon, or airgun
- ◆ Liquor
- ◆ Tobacco products
- ◆ A taonga tuturu**
- ◆ Vouchers or entitlements to commercial sexual services
- ◆ Vouchers or entitlements to any of the other property listed above.

Second-hand goods and non-residential land can be offered as prizes. Game rules require that the nature of gambling prizes must be fully disclosed.

** Taonga tuturu means an object more than 50 years old that relates to Maori culture, history or society, and was manufactured, modified, used, or brought into New Zealand by Maori

All this information was taken from The Department of Internal Affairs web site.

As you can see the raffles we have here will sometimes be considered Class 1 and sometimes Class 2.

If you would like more information at all please do not hesitate to contact Martijn at



*Letter to the Editor
or a contribution?*

Email it to
fudja809@student.otago.ac.nz